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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

- 1. (canceled)
- 2. (canceled)
- 3. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 5, wherein one of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV than the other HCV polypeptides.
- 4. (previously presented): The composition of claim 3 wherein each of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV.
- 5. (currently amended): A <u>An immunogenic</u> composition that activates HCV-specific T cells, said composition comprising:
- (a) a fusion protein that comprises HCV polypeptides, wherein the HCV polypeptides consist of an NS3, an NS4, an NS5a, an NS5b and a core polypeptide of HCV; and
 - (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and
 - (c) an adjuvant.
 - 6. (canceled)
 - 7. (canceled)
- 8. (currently amended): A <u>An immunogenic</u> composition that activates HCV-specific T cells, said composition comprising HCV polypeptides, wherein the HCV polypeptides consist of:
 - (a) an isolated and purified NS3 polypeptide of a hepatitis C virus (HCV);
 - (b) an isolated and purified NS4 polypeptide of a HCV;
 - (c) an isolated and purified NS5a polypeptide of a HCV;

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- (d) an isolated and purified NS5b polypeptide of a HCV;
- (e) an isolated and purified core polypeptide of a HCV;
- (f) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and
- (g) an adjuvant.

9-22. (canceled)

23. (withdrawn): A method of activating T cells which recognize an epitope of an HCV polypeptide, comprising the step of:

contacting T cells with the composition of claim 5, whereby a population of activated T cells recognizes an epitope of the NS3, NS4, NS5a, or NS5b polypeptides.

- 24. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the T cells are obtained from a mammal selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a baboon, a chimpanzee, and a human.
 - 25. (withdrawn): The method of claim 24 wherein the mammal is infected with an HCV.
- 26. (withdrawn): The method of claim 24 wherein the mammal is not infected with an HCV.
- 27. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the population of T cells comprises CD4⁺ T cells.
- 28. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the population of T cells comprises CD8⁺ T cells.
- 29. (withdrawn): The method of claim 28 wherein the CD8⁺ T cells express interferon- γ .

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30. (withdrawn): The method of claim 28 wherein the CD8⁺ T cells specifically recognize an epitope of an NS5a polypeptide.

- 31. (withdrawn): The method of claim 30 wherein the epitope is selected from the group consisting of the epitopes shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.
- 32. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the T cells comprise CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cells.
- 33. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the step of contacting further comprises contacting the T cells with an adjuvant.
 - 34-36. (canceled)
 - 37. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the T cells are in a mammal.
- 38. (withdrawn): The method of claim 37 wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a baboon, a chimpanzee, and a human.
 - 39. (withdrawn): The method of claim 37 wherein the mammal is infected with an HCV.
- 40. (withdrawn): The method of claim 37 wherein the mammal is not infected with an HCV.
 - 41. (canceled)
- 42. (withdrawn): A method of activating T cells which recognize an epitope of an HCV polypeptide, comprising the step of:

contacting T cells with a composition according to claim 8, whereby a population of activated T cells recognizes an epitope of the NS3, NS4, NS5a, or NS5b polypeptides.

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43-44. (canceled)

- 45. (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein one of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV than the other HCV polypeptides.
- 46. (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein each of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV.